

REMARKS

It is noted, with appreciation that the Examiner has indicated that claims 9 and 10, although objected to as being dependent on a rejected base claim, would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. The Examiner notes that claims 9 and 10 are allowable because the closest prior art are silent on the claimed amount of carbon black in the claims and that the Applicants' specification (page 21, Table 1) clearly indicates the importance of the claimed amount of carbon black in claims 9 and 10 for reducing stain on paper during the supply of paper. As the Examiner will note, claim 1 has been amended to include carbon black as the reinforcing filler which is dispersed in the rubber and/or the thermoplastic elastomer. Also, claim 1, as amended, now recites that the carbon black is present in an amount of not less than 3 nor more than fifteen parts by weight per one hundred parts by weight of the rubber and/or thermoplastic elastomer. Accordingly, in view of the amendments made to claim 1, it is believed that the present application containing claims 1-15 is now in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration of the Examiner's rejections of the claims as noted in paragraphs 3, 4 and 5 of the Examiner's Office Action is respectfully requested.

As the Examiner will note, the abstract of the disclosure, the specification, and the claims have been carefully reviewed and

amended to bring them into better compliance with U.S. patent practice. Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of all of the rejections and allowance of all of the claims of the present application are respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Joseph A. Kolasch (Reg. No. 22,463) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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